

Ser. No. 10/670,408
TIMK 8497U1
Amendment Dated June 25, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 26, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13-21 are pending. Claims 1-6, 10, 11, and 19 are indicated as allowable. Claims 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, and 21 are rejected. Claims 14 and 17 are objected to. Claims 13 and 16 are amended herein. Claims 8, 9, 12, 14, 17, and 20 are canceled herein.

Rejection of Claims 8-9, 13, 15-16, 18, and 20-21 Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

Claims 8-9, 13, 15-16, 18, and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 3,945,270 issued to *Nelson* (hereafter referred to as "*Nelson*") in light of U.S. Pat. No. 4,116,293 issued to *Fukui* (hereafter referred to as "*Fukui*"). Claims 8, 9, and 20 are cancelled herein.

As suggested by Examiner, Independent Claims 13 and 16 has been amended herein to include the limitations of respective claims 14 and 17. Therefore, Applicant submits that the prior art references do not contain all the claim limitations of Claims 13 and 16, as required by the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure ("MPEP") to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Moreover, the references of record, neither individually, or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed inventions. Hence the claims are allowable over the art of record.

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In light of the above, Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 13, 15-16, 18, and 21 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims amended or canceled by this Response to Final Office Action are being so amended or canceled in accordance with Examiner's recommendations. Applicant reserves the right to pursue other and/or broader claims in a subsequent continuation. Claim has been canceled to expedite allowance of the remaining claims.

Conclusion.

Applicant believes the above analysis overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and all of the Examiner's rejections. Therefore, applicant submits that claims 1-6, 10-11, and 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21 constitute allowable subject matter and should be favorably considered by the Examiner. Applicant requests that the Examiner issue a timely Notice of Allowance for those claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit overpayment under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, which may be required by this paper to Deposit Account 162201.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Scott Anthony Smith, Registration No. 46,067
POLSTER, LIEDER, WOODRUFF & LUCCHESI, L.C.
12412 Powerscourt Drive, Suite 200
St. Louis, MO 63131-3615
Telephone: (314) 238-2400
Facsimile: (314) 238-2401